Expansion of Bhubaneswar airport

877. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airport at Bhubaneswar is proposed to be expanded;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government would meet its expenses;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up an International Airport in Orissa, keeping in view its heritage character; and

(d) whether any kind of facilities are proposed to be provided at the airports in the State to boost tourism, especially foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already strengthened and extended the runway at Bhubaneswar airport, leaving a portion through which a road passes. This portion of runway will be completed after State Government provides diversion road at their cost.

(b) Expenses on extension of the runway have already been met by AAI.

(c) There is no proposal, at present, to set up an International Airport in Orissa.

(d) Bhubaneswar airport is the only operational airport in Orissa. This Airport has already been upgraded and a New Terminal Building has been constructed to cater to 250 arriving and 250 departing passengers.

Losses to IA on unviable routes

878. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is paying a heavy price for continuing to operate on seemingly unviable routes;

(b) if so, whether a look at the airlines annual report for 2001 -2002 shows that as many as 24 of the 70 domestic services operated by the airlines during that year did not meet even the direct (cash) cost of operations;